| SI. No. | Applicable BIS Standards | 1. Name of the products |
|---|---|---|
| 127. | IS 8776 | Valve fittings for use with liquefied petroleum gas cylinder up to and including 5 litre water capacity |
| 128. | IS 3470 | Hexane, Food grade |
| 129. | IS 8144 | Multipurpose dry batteries |
| 130. | IS 7620(Pt.l) | Diagnostic Medical X-Ray Equipment |
| 131. | IS 14625 | Plastic Feeding Bottles |

## WRITTEN ANSWERS TO UNSTARRED QUESTIONS

### Growing of medicinal plants by utilizing biotechnology

2859. SHRI RAVI SHANKAR PRASAD: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the observation of one of the members of the Planning Commission which appeared in the Delhi edition of the 'Hindu' daily dated the 28th February, 2001, that bio-technology should be adopted in the cultivation of medicinal plants and also forest prodmce like bamboo; and

(b) if so, the steps being taken by Government for identifying medicinal plants for growing on a massive scale by utilizing biotechnology?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The Government is encouraging the adoption of biotechnology for the cultivation of medicinal plants and bamboo. The Department of Bio-technology, Ministry of Science & Technology and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, Ministry of Agriculture have been supporting a number of programmes on the production of medicinal plants through tissue culture for large scale production of these plants. Regeneration protocols have been

developed for about ten different species and four Gene Banks have been established for conservation of the important medicinal plants. Protocols for tissue culture have been developed for medicinal and aromatic plants like Reuvolfia serpentina, Chlorophytum and Commiphora mukul and for bamboo. Large quantity of ^bamboo plants produced by the Tissue Culture Pilot Plants at Tata Energy Research Institute (TERI), New Delhi and National Chemical Laboratory (NCL), Pune have been planted at various locations of the country. For increasing the area under medicinal plants, the Department of Agriculture and Cooperation is extending support to the farmers under the Centrally Sponsored Scheme on Macro Management in Agriculture Supplementation/Complementation of States' Efforts through Work Plans.

**Financial help by international bodies**

2860. SHRI NANA DESHMUKH: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 38, Unstarred Questions 95 and 99 dated 22nd February, 2001 and state:

(a) whether the disaster viz. flood, earthquake, cyclone and drought on national scale in either part of India is a matter of day to day;

(b) whether Government have recently announced the composition of Permanent National Disaster Management Committee of Experts;

(c) if so, whether the Committee would hold its regular meetings regarding national disaster on State and Central level;

(d) how Government propose to equip the Committee with proper and constant funding; and

(e) whether Government would approach the international bodies to provide requisite financial help on permanent basis?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHRIPAD YESSO NAIK): (a) to (d) Due to geographical features, the country is prone to various natural disasters. Almost every year one part or other of the country